REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated January 24, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 8. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Ono et al.</u> (U.S. Patent No. 5,668,379) in view of <u>Shin</u> (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,449). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...wherein a contact hole that electrically connects a drain electrode of the TFTs with a pixel electrode of the pixel region is formed over a predetermined portion of the drain electrode through a passivation film and is formed over a predetermined portion of the pixel region by exposing the insulating substrate through a gate insulating film and the passivation film..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claim 2, which depends therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 3 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 3 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a contact hole formed over a predetermined portion of the drain electrode through a passivation film and is formed over a predetermined portion of the pixel region by exposing the substrate through a gate insulating film and the passivation film..." For similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 and claims 6 and 7, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 8 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 8 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...forming a contact hole formed over a predetermined portion
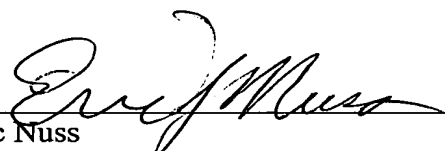
of the drain electrode through a passivation film and is formed over a predetermined portion of a pixel region by exposing the insulating substrate through a gate insulating film and the passivation film..." For similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 and claim 11, which depends therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: <u>April 24, 2006</u>   Respectfully submitted,

By_____
Eric Nuss
Registration No.: 40,106
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorney for Applicant

DC:50406078.1